

JAN 22 2016

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the *Wasmannia*
2 *auropunctata*, known as the little fire ant, threatens native
3 biodiversity, alters tropical ecosystems, impairs human health,
4 impedes tourism, diminishes agricultural productivity, mars
5 horticulture sales, and accordingly ranks among the world's
6 worst invasive species. Human behaviors and habitats allow the
7 little fire ant to move quickly, disperse widely, grow to high
8 densities, and inhabit locations not otherwise possible.

9 Hawaii's tropical climate is ideally suited for little fire
10 ant establishment and growth. The little fire ant, by far one
11 of Hawaii's worst invasive pests, is not only bothersome to
12 residents, visitors, and farmers because of its nasty sting, it
13 also harms agriculture and natural areas by nurturing other
14 invasive pests such as aphids, mealybugs, soft scale insects,
15 and whiteflies.

16 The legislature further finds that when compared to the
17 other counties, the county of Hawaii has been affected the most



1 by the little fire ant. The University of Hawaii, the county of
2 Hawaii, and the department of agriculture must collaborate to
3 develop and implement effective measures to address the impacts
4 of the little fire ant in the county of Hawaii.

5 The department of agriculture's little fire ant program was
6 created to survey, detect, and develop the most efficient little
7 fire ant management strategy with minimal impact to the State's
8 tropical ecosystem and non-target organisms, while serving as
9 the role model to eradicate the little fire ant in all
10 communities. The legislature finds that the department of
11 agriculture needs to be more proactive and aggressive in
12 implementing its current fire ant program.

13 The purpose of this Act is to establish a pilot project and
14 appropriate funds for the development and implementation of
15 additional tools to assist the department of agriculture to
16 expand its current little fire ant program.

17 SECTION 2. The department of agriculture shall establish
18 and implement a pilot pesticide treatment coupon project within
19 its current little fire ant program. The pilot project shall
20 distribute coupons redeemable for appropriate pesticide at
21 suppliers or vendors within the county of Hawaii at no cost to



1 individuals who have reported and verified to the department the
2 presence of little fire ants on their property within the county
3 of Hawaii. Each coupon shall be valid for a one-year supply of
4 the department's recommended treatment plan.

5 SECTION 3. The department of agriculture shall create a
6 map that indicates all little fire ant sites in the county of
7 Hawaii by using all its available data, including verified
8 reports of little fire ant sites. The maps shall be updated
9 periodically and made available on the department's website.

10 SECTION 4. The department of agriculture shall submit a
11 report on its progress in implementing the mandates in sections
12 2 and 3 of this Act to the legislature no later than twenty days
13 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2017. The
14 report shall include findings and recommendations, any necessary
15 proposed legislation, and whether the pilot project in section 2
16 and little fire ant site map in section 3 of this Act should be
17 continued, terminated, or modified.

18 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the



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1 little fire ant pilot project in section 2 and the little fire
2 ant site map in section 3 of this Act.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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INTRODUCED BY:

MM N. N.
By Request



S.B. NO. 2379

Report Title:

Little Fire Ant; Hawaii Island; Pesticide Treatment Coupon Pilot Program, Little Fire Ant Site Map; Appropriations

Description:

Mandates the Department of Agriculture to establish a Little Fire Ant Pesticide Treatment Coupon Pilot Project and site map. Requires the Department of Agriculture to report to the Legislature on project implementation. Appropriates funds.

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